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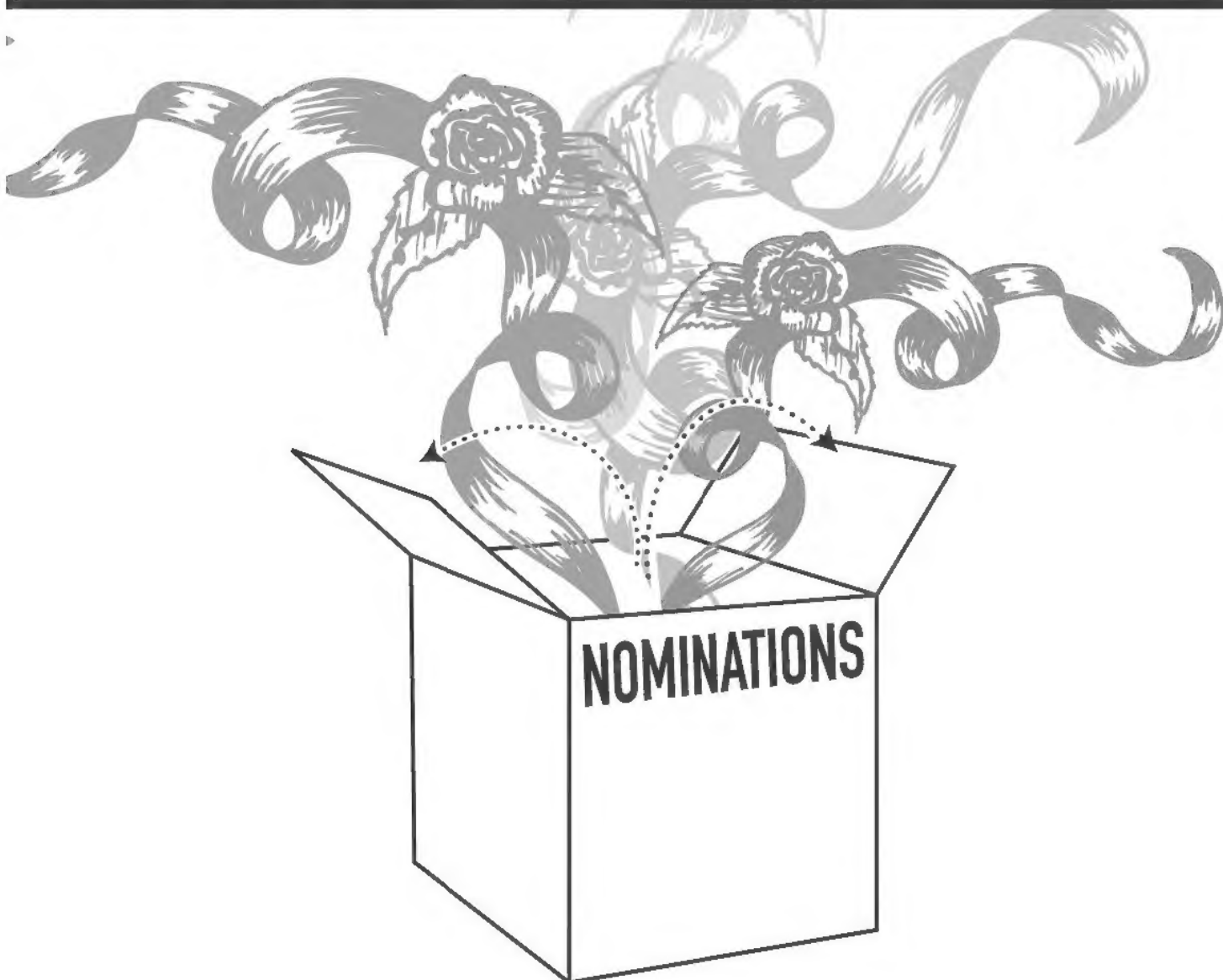
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Lady luck in the can for Bears

Charmed lavatory helps basketball squad avenge Friday night loss to HuskiesPAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

Before they even tipped off in Friday's 90-71 loss to the Saskatchewan Huskies, the Golden Bears basketball team just wasn't in sync.

"My pre-game was a little out of whack, and it's these little things that put you in the right frame of mind to come out and play well," said Alberta centre Richard Bates, who was locked out of his lucky washroom before Friday's contest commenced.

The Bears (13-5) came out flat, falling 14 behind in the first half and failed to make the game any closer before losing, much to the dismay of head coach Don Horwood.

"[Saskatchewan] just beat us," he said. "They beat us every phase: they out-played us defensively, they beat us on the boards, they worked harder, they were hungrier, they played under control, they made good decisions. They worked us. They kicked us in every part of the game."

Fifth-year guard Tyson Jones echoed Horwood, pointing to a lack of focus and energy for Friday night's loss.

"We were coming off a four-game win streak, and guys were a little high on themselves, and sometimes you can get complacent. In this league, teams are so evenly matched that you can't go into a game half-heartedly," he said.

Alberta hit .587 from the floor but were out-rebounded 32-19 and 16-14 under their own basket and took 13 fewer shots than the Huskies (11-7). No Bear had more than three rebounds, while Saskatchewan forward Andrew Spagrud grabbed ten, to go with his 20 points on the night.

"As a team we didn't go to the boards, at all," Bates admitted. "I had one board, Scott [Gordon] had three, Justin [Van Loo] had one. We're big guys; we need to get more than that."

Saturday night told a different tale for the Golden Bears. Bates dropped a deuce in his lucky washroom before the game and then proceeded to drop 14 on the Huskies as one of four Bears who reached double digits. Gordon was equally effective inside, adding 17 of his own. Both posts grabbed seven boards en route to a 83-70 victory.



PETE YEE

DUDE, WHAT THE FUCK? Scott Gordon (white) brings the angry to Andrew Spagrud (15) and Mark Lynch (21) of the Huskies in action this weekend.

"We had energy; we played hard—we worked our asses off. It's crazy that you can be playing at this level and guys come not ready to play, but it happens," Horwood said. "[Friday] we were sleepwalking out there, nobody had an effort, but tonight we brought the whole ball of wax: we played tough defensively and got on the boards."

"In Canada West, when you play back-to-back and win the first night, the other teams—especially if they're the home team—is going to come out really hard [the next night]," Huskies

head coach Greg Jockims added.

The weekend split leaves the Bears with a two game lead on the Huskies for first place in the Central Division. Both teams have four games left. While a sweep would have clinched top spot and a first-round playoff bye for Alberta, Horwood is still pleased with where the team sits at this point.

"I like our position. I'd have liked to win [both] to have it clinched, but this is probably better for us; it'll keep us sharp—keep that carrot out in front of us," he said.

THE PEP RALLY

by Paul Owen

Pandas Volleyball

The ladies travelled to Vancouver this weekend for a pair of games against the Thunderbirds of UBC. Having spent six days in the Lower Mainland recently, I can tell you that despite a lot of rain, there is in fact very little thunder. That didn't make a difference for the Pandas on Friday night, however, as they fell to the T-Birds 3-1. Tiffany Dodds led the way for the Pandas with 13 kills, and while I wasn't in attendance, I'm sure all 13 were spectacular enough to deserve two or even three points, though that's not really how volleyball works.

The Pandas (12-4) rebounded the next day to take a hard-earned victory over UBC (12-6) in five sets, 3-2. Dodds once again killed the Thunderbirds, finishing 20 attacks and Jocelyn Blair added 17 of her own for the winning side.

Pandas Hockey

Unlike their male counterparts, the ice-bound Pandas (18-2-0) kept themselves from being upset by the Lethbridge

Pronghorns (6-13-1), winning a pair of games over the weekend. Friday's 7-0 thumping of the 'Horns marked the third time this season that Alberta had beaten Lethbridge by seven or more goals. A pair of Jens paced the Pandas as both Jenna Barber and Jennifer Newton potted two.

Saturday saw a closer contest, but only in comparison to Friday. Alberta won 5-1 powered by five different scorers. No Panda had more than two points on the night. Goaltenders Holly Tartleton and Danielle Bles had the easiest job on the ice this weekend, as the Pronghorns managed only a combined 20 shots in the two games.

Bears Volleyball

Joel Schmuland was named the Hudsons on Campus Athlete of the Week. The prestigious honour has earned Joel a \$50 gift certificate to the Pub That Killed Scholar's, which actually makes the award something worth winning—at least, it's good if you like chicken fingers.

Swimming

Kellen Westman became the sixth Golden Bear and 13th U of A swimmer to earn his trip to CIS Nationals at Dalhousie later this year, making the

grade in the 50m butterfly at the Fast Eddie Invitational this weekend.

Fantasy Hockey

Currently, My Orbs Have Power sits in fourth place in the Gateway's hockey pool. With the playoffs on the horizon, Ross Prusakowski holds a slim, one-point lead on Jake Troughton for first, and Chloé Fedio's gaffers sit six back of Jake in third. Holding the last three play-off spots are me, Adam Gaumont and Keith Vandersluis, respectively, but Dan Kaszor sits only one point out in seventh. RATT manager Dave Young sits in last, and is already selling off his team, dealing Martin Havlat and Daniel Briere in the past week.

Now, we all know the Bible is no laughing matter, but that's not going to stop my team from both sodomizing and gamorrahizing Mike Kendrick in our matchup this week. We're not talking a few measly fires either: Martin St Louis, Ilya Kovalchuk and company are going to rain down sulfur on his ass. They'll be replacing their sticks with metaphorical flaming swords. Fantasy sports are supposed to be good for you, but I can't think of any way that flaming swords and sulfur rain could be healthy. Maybe they were referring to winning at fantasy sports. Not that

30 seconds enough time for pleasure, laughs

The World's Hottest Commercials might be short and sweet, but they sure hit the spot when it comes to creative and emotive skits

The World's Hottest Commercials

Runs 26 January to 8 February
Garneau Theatre

RYAN HEISE
Online Coordinator

If you plan on taking in *The World's Hottest Commercials*, you should realize two very important things. First: yes, you are about to watch advertisements for 90 minutes. If you shun commercialism and march in anti-Coke rallies, this probably isn't something for you. Second: the best commercials aren't the ones that get you to go out and buy something. The best are the ones that get brought up the following day at the office or school and make productivity stand still as everyone gathers around the new water cooler—YouTube.

Take, for instance, that CBS is asking for US \$2.6 million for each 30-second television ad airing during the Super Bowl this Sunday. That's over \$85 000 per second. If you're spending that kind of money on advertising, you better make damn sure that your ad resonates with viewers.

The World's Hottest Commercials is a fundraiser for the Edmonton International Film Festival and is made up of the winners of the 47th annual Clio Awards—essentially the Academy Awards for commercials. The awards are broken into categories such as beverages/alcohol, editing,

cinematography, toiletries/pharmaceuticals, animation, music and public service announcement. They're further segmented into bronze, silver and gold winners. Surprisingly, as good as the bronze winners are, the silver and gold ads are noticeably better.

But remember, these aren't your run-of-the-mill ads. Some of them are legitimate stories aimed at making you laugh, making you cry or just making you take notice of something mundane. To claim that commercials haven't evolved into intelligent and sophisticated pieces of art is failing to see beyond the products or services they're trying to hock.

One of the early bronze winners—a North American Snickers ad—had the audience collectively laughing at a bald man crying alone in a dark parkade. While a simple ad compared to the rest of the field, the fact that this hilarious commercial unfolded in a non-linear way definitely set it apart.

Other more ambitious ads captivated the audience for much longer. A four-part, ten-minute long commercial from Asia for Smooth-E Babyface Foam unfolded a hilarious teenage love story and was well worth enduring the quirky humour of the Pacific Rim.

However, the commercials fall somewhat flat in the public service category. A series of anti-smoking ads made by the Truth Campaign acted out documents made public by tobacco companies in the style of



a sitcom. While not overly preachy, the humour just didn't shine through compared to some of the simpler commercials.

While the awards are peppered with ads that viewers of North American television will surely recognize, it's the ones from other countries that really stand out. It's hard to top Vodafone Europe's five-second spot; a brief phone

call consisting of, "Dad, I'm gay," followed by an enthusiastic "Excellent," prompting customers not to worry about having lengthy conversations.

Even Honda topped their famous Rube Goldberg commercial from 2005 with a choir of sound-effect artists convincingly recreating every nuance of a car using only their voices and bodies. The fingernails-on-teeth

"rain" was hauntingly beautiful.

Most viewers won't leave the theatre with a hollow feeling that needs to be filled with a pair of Nikes or a foamy pint of Guinness, but they'll probably leave feeling entertained by how much better 30 seconds can be than most 30-minute sitcoms. Brevity, in the right hands, can be an amazing thing.

Blood And Chocolate not as good as sex and violence



Blood And Chocolate

Directed by Katja von Garnier
Starring Agnes Bruckner, Hugh Dancy and Olivier Martinez
Empire Theatres
Now Playing

SHAUN MCMULLEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

On the surface, *Blood And Chocolate* seems to have something going for it. It's based upon the prize-winning young adult novel by Annette Curtis Klause, and features both a young, sexy cast and a director who seems to know what she's doing. Now, any movie that's adapted from another source carries the expectation that it will stay somewhat faithful to that original work, and often movies are made in the hope that fans will buy tickets in droves.

This, of course, is a double-edged sword. The weight of expectations that accompanies adaptations can be either buoyed by a good movie (*Last King Of Scotland*, all the *Harry Potter* films so far) or sunk by a so-so or shitty movie (*The Da Vinci Code* or *Eragon*). Unfortunately, *Blood And Chocolate* is so painfully bad that it wouldn't surprise me if fans of the novel stayed away.

A major part of the blame for just how crappy this movie is lies with the screenwriters. Instead of a teen-angst-laden fantasy set in a North American suburb, you get a college-age romance placed in Bucharest. Yep, that's right, Bucharest. Vivian (Agnes Bruckner) is

a young werewolf born in Romania but raised in the US. She's wooed and eventually won over by the human Aiden (Hugh Dancy), much to chagrin of her family and the leader of the pack, Gabriel (Olivier Martinez), who sees her as a potential mate.

***Blood And Chocolate* is so laughably bad it's probably in the running for next year's Razzies.**

Hilarity ensues, just not the intended kind. Rather than feeling the alienation and the difficulties experienced while growing up, you get something that goes for the Eastern European gothic feel that all horror flicks these days seem to have, where all the villains are absinthe-swilling cartoons with goatees and laughable accents. Really, the only common ground the movie has with the book is in the names of the characters and parts of the plot line; even the ending is changed. It's really a shame, since a closer read of Klause's book would have probably given us a better movie.

Now, I know that there have been really good films, even classics, that have paid mere lip service to their original sources. Unfortunately, for fans of the book, this isn't the case. *Blood And Chocolate* is so laughably bad it's probably in the running for next year's

Razzies. Cliché upon cliché is piled up until you can't hold back the urge to laugh—either that or you just sit stunned in your chair like a bystander at the scene of a train wreck.

The acting is amateurish at best, or in the case of Olivier Martinez, so dialed in that it's like he's at home in Paris waiting for the paycheck to clear. Even the direction is third-rate, as the movie stops, starts or jumps from one scene to another for no apparent reason. What's most shocking about *Blood And Chocolate*, though, is the fact that director Katja von Garnier has a fairly decent track record, having directed the HBO flick *Iron Jawed Angels*. But here, she's asleep at the wheel.

Some people would argue that even though a film is ineptly made, it could still make it as a camp classic with a good helping of gratuitous sex and violence. But sorry guys; *Blood And Chocolate* is so tame it could probably be shown on TBS unedited. There's very little gore and the pinnacle of violence occurs during a gunfight in a bar. Indeed, the most savage scene in a werewolf film, with all the blood and guts that a membership in the genre implies, is a gunfight in a bar. As for the sex, well, the most erotic scenes occur when fully clothed people transform into wolves, and then transform back into their human forms—naked. Instead of any seduction or sexiness, *Blood And Chocolate* leaves you wondering just where in the hell their pants went. Sad, really.



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Time keeps on slippin', slippin'



ROBB
MYROON

"Dave Chappelle said it, and I'll say it again: everything's better in slow motion. No matter what movie you're watching—*Kill Bill*, *Talladega Nights*, *John Tucker Must Die*—there'll be a scene in slow motion. And when that moment comes, we're moved to the edge of our seats to marvel in its wonder."

Free time is a wonderful thing. Countless carefree hours can be devoted not only towards testing the criminal code or enjoying a lack of responsibility, but also towards complete inactivity. I, like most others, fill much of my free time with TV and engross myself in what some might call cinematic adventures.

These adventures may occur in the safety of the home, but can also be experienced with over-priced popcorn and Dolby 5.1 surround sound with THX. Regardless of which a person prefers, it's safe to say we all watch movies. During my movie marathon this past Christmas, for example, I had a pretty solid mix of action, comedy and thrillers. Most were good, and, of course, some were bad. Midway through one of the bombs, I started to wonder why exactly I had kept watching the film. I didn't really think the show was going to get any better and none of the actresses were really worth a complete watch. Then it hit me like a slap from Richard Simmons, lightly of course. I was waiting for the scene in slow motion.

Dave Chappelle said it, and I'll say it again: things are better in slow

motion. No matter what movie you're watching—*Kill Bill*, *Talladega Nights*, *John Tucker Must Die*—there'll be a scene in slow motion. And when that moment comes, when the inspirational music plays, we're moved to the edge of our seats to marvel in its wonder.

As I watched in awe at one particular slow motion scene, I decided to take it upon myself to probe into the human, mind and find the cause of why we're in love with everything moving at less-than-normal speed—and I have reached some conclusions.

Normal speed tricks us into a false sense of security with the word "normal," when in reality, we all know that normal speed is just too damn fast. Gravity is a huge culprit here; it pulls everything down much too quickly for anyone to enjoy a glass that's knocked off a table. The water that spills out creates a symphony of beauty for the eye and the anticipation of the glass smashing into a thousand little pieces make our hearts melt. In real life, the glory is so short lived that all we are left with is the hopes that someone will slip and fall on the water.

Slow motion gives us the Spidey Sense that we never got from letting a spider bite us and having a huge welt for three weeks. We can see the air being pushed into circular waves by a bullet and we can even hear the air being pushed. That's right baby; I can hear air. And as the vase is knocked off the table, I have enough time to figure out how far it's going to travel and exactly where it is going to smash—and I also know the actor will never be able to catch it in time.

Something shattering into a million pieces is perhaps the greatest part of slow motion. Not only do we have a sick love with destruction of fragile objects, but being allowed to watch this annihilation occur five times longer than normal, well, let's just say it's cinematic nirvana.

Bottom line: everything is better in slow motion and I wish that life could sometimes achieve this effect. Just imagine yourself walking in slow motion through the hallway of CAB—with some hard rock in the background of course—and seeing that box of fries fly off the table toward the ground, spraying in all directions. It would be truly beautiful.

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IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE ... It's International Week! Various events and performances are running until Friday.



Coiffing a pop-cultured opera

The Barber of Seville
Directed by Micheal Cavanagh
Starring Gregory Dahl, John Tessier,
and Krisztina Szabo with accompani-
ment by the Edmonton Symphony
Orchestra.
3, 6 and 8 February
Jubilee Auditorium

LACINA DESJARLAIS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

A hush falls over the city of Edmonton in the dead of the night, and in the sky a gigantic symbol emblazoned with the letters EO flashes. It's the Edmonton Opera putting out the director call for their new production, and the man to step up to the challenge is noted direc-
tor and former artistic director for the Edmonton Opera, Michael Cavanagh. While the process of finding a new director might not actually be this dramatic, Cavanagh admits that at times opera draws more from pop culture and cartoons than people know.

The Barber of Seville is the life story of Figaro, a scheming and clever barber. The tale follows Figaro and his plot to help unite two young lovers, Rosina and Count Almaviva, by out-witting Rosina's conniving and aged guardian who intends to keep her for himself.

According to Cavanagh, the plot provides plenty of twists and turns that will keep the audience guessing and laughing, but finding humour in the libretto wasn't the difficult part.

Relating the 200-year-old comedic opera to modern day life seemed to be the real challenge, but Cavanagh took it in stride, ultimately connecting the old opera to today's pop culture.

"It's almost a challenge; we're looking at the audiences, asking them to spot the pop-culture references. We take a lot of care to make things seem fresh."

MICHAEL CAVANAGH

"You can look at a situation that's there in the opera and see that it sort of resembles something out of pop culture. You just have to take it and make it a bit more suggestive of that," says Cavanagh. "There are *Simpsons* moments and we've got *Seinfeld* moments; there are all sorts of things off of TV and the Internet [in the production] that everyone knows.

"It's almost a challenge; we're looking at the audiences, asking them to spot the pop-culture references. We take a lot of care to make things seem fresh."

When asked about how he came up with the idea to tie all the pop culture references into the show, Cavanagh had a ready response.

"I'm easily bored," Cavanagh laughs. "For example, the Figaro character bursts into the room a lot, so all we do is try and give him the same kind of body language that Kramer has when he bursts into Jerry's apartment [on *Seinfeld*]. We take it and have fun with it, and the audience goes, 'Hey, that's Kramer,' drawing them even further into the story. Opera is nothing more and nothing less than storytelling."

And according to actor Gregory Dahl who plays Figaro, working with Cavanagh's vision and turning his dramatis personae into a living cartoon was less of a challenge than some of the other roles he has taken in the past.

"*Don Giovanni* was more of a stretch for me. This character suits my personality and is more like what I'm like in real life. I tend to be a bit of a card anyway," Dahl says. "It's more about honing your craft and so that you can make those situations, know exactly when you have to turn it on and when you have to draw focus and give focus away so that it becomes a show."

With a talented cast and a focused vision by the director, it seems *The Barber of Seville* is primed to become a hilarious hit. Nonetheless, Dahl still gets jitters before a performance.

"Yes, [opening night jitters] exist," Dahl admits. "If anyone says they're not nervous they're lying. A little bit of nervousness is good because it means you're there. You just say a prayer to your gods before you go out there and you just let 'er fly."



Converge
No Heroes
Epitaph
www.convergecult.com

EAMON MCGRATH
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"Son, where are you going with that teensy black hoodie?"

"Converge is in town, mom, and apparently, they're going to sacrifice an armadillo to the gods of hardcore. I can't miss this show."

"What's that on your calf? Is that a tattoo? Is your eyebrow pierced? You're going nowhere with your life, young man! Come back here at once!"

"Never! I'll never be like you! I wish I was never born!"

And so went millions of exchanges between kids and their parents across North America when Converge released their landmark *Jane Doe*, and like any band in their position, they would continue to desperately try, time

and time again, to recreate the magic of that career plateau, two albums post.

If you close your eyes and try really hard, it almost feels like you're listening to the same album: there are the signature periods of washing, calming beauty (*No Heroes*' "Weight of the World" to *Jane Doe*'s "Hell to Pay") contrasted by grindy, intense blasts of rage ("Heartache" versus "Concubine") and the standard nine-minute-plus self-indulgers ("Grim Heart/Black Rose" versus "Jane Doe") but that's exactly where *No Heroes* fails in its attempt to astound. Converge has pigeonholed themselves and everything they do on their records is expected. It's officially the musical tragedy of the year.

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Genocide: Beyond Terror Systematic Mass Destruction

Holocaust and
Human Rights:

Mr. Len Rudner

Canadian Jewish Congress
Director of Communications

Rwandan Genocide
Survivor:

Dr. Tharcisse Seminega

History and First Hand
Testimony

✡ Hillel: Jewish Students Association ✡

Fishing for the good ol' days

Kingfisher Days lures audiences back into the world of fantastic stories and playing make-believe

Kingfisher Days

Directed by Andrea Boyd
Written by Susan Coyne
Starring Clarice Eckford, Paul Morgan Donald and Lora Brovold
Runs 25 January–3 February
Catalyst Theatre

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

At first, the plot of playwright Susan Coyne's *Kingfisher Days* is just like any other coming-of-age story about a young child befriending an elderly individual—a theme often seen in films such as *Cinema Paradiso* or fairy tales like *Pinocchio*. However, Coyne's play, which is based on her semi-autobiographical memoir of the same name, deals with a multitude of themes: the passage of time, childhood naiveté and innocence, discovery, romance, heart-break and memory.

Upon entering the theatre, the audience will discover an incredibly minimalist set design—one that consists of only a handful of logs, fallen leaves and a semi-transparent curtain. While the play lacks the use of props and an elaborate set design, Covenant Theatre's *Kingfisher Days* places emphasis on monologues, dialogues, emotion and facial expression to advance the play's story and narrative.

Kingfisher Days is simply a happy, feel-good play that will appeal to all audiences, perhaps reminding adults about a simpler time in life where curiosity and fantasy prevailed.

Kingfisher Days is a story that will resonate with a viewer's own childhood memories and emotions. The play tells the story of a young five-year-old named Susan (Clarice Eckford) who spends her seemingly endless summer days at her family's lakeside cottage. For young Susan, the passing of time seems like an eternity and a bore until she meets her elderly neighbour, Mr Moir, a retired schoolteacher played by Paul Morgan Donald (who



TARASTIEGLITZ

ARE YOU MY FAIRY? *Kingfisher Days* will remind you of pixies and Santa.

also plays Susan's often preoccupied crossword-playing father).

Susan and Mr Moir's friendship is fostered by a series of fictional letters from the make-believe character of Nootsie Tah (Lara Brovold, also cast as Susan's mother and aunt), a Peruvian fairy princess on a journey to return to her kingdom. Not only does Mr Moir anonymously write the letters for the benefit and delight of his child neighbour-friend, but Mr Moir is actually based on a real-life retired schoolteacher who writer Susan Coyne credits for her discovery of the power and love of the written word.

Eckford's depiction of a five-year-old child is incredibly believable. As she listens to Mr Moir's readings of Nootsie Tah's letters, her smiles, frowns and expressions of childish wonder easily convince the audience that 20-something Eckford really is a kid. Donald's Mr Moir is also as gentle, goodhearted and genuine, like a grandpa dressed up as Santa Clause.

The use of simple props and a semi-

transparent curtain are also used effectively in *Kingfisher Days*. The opening of the play features what appears to be a projection of a slideshow or PowerPoint presentation about birds and Susan Coyne's own life. Impressively, a slide depicting Susan's parents magically comes to life as the actors' mannequin-like poses transform into animated flashbacks of Susan's memory. The simple logs and leaves that make up the set design also serve as Mr Moir's backyard, his kitchen table and a campfire.

Video and sound compliment a scene in which Susan's mother is swimming within a projected image of moving waves. Nootsie Tah poses as an analog clock—with her arm or second hand moving, making a tick-tock sound—at the same time, proving how a simple set design and few props can effectively tell a story. *Kingfisher Days* is simply a happy, feel-good play that will appeal to all audiences, perhaps reminding adults about a simpler time in life where curiosity and fantasy prevailed.



illScarlett

EPidemic
Infect The Masses/ red ink
www.myspace.com/illscarlett

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

marijuana? Impossible! Hard as it may be to believe, marijuana and alcohol are, in fact, the subjects of several songs on illScarlett's *EPdemic*.

illScarlett's sound can best be described as a combination of punk, rock and dub/reggae. This isn't a common combination, but all together, it creates an interesting, toe-tapping sound. The best track is "Not A Prophecy," which opens with a racing, almost neo-swing-like beat (in the style of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy or the Cherry Poppin' Daddies), except with a healthy infusion of punk. So what might this song's genre be called? Neo-neo-swing? After an energetic punk/rock core, the track suddenly slows down and offers a dub/reggae ending. The unexpected

switch is pleasantly surprising.

The catchy "One-A" describes a party where marijuana and alcohol are consumed for an escape, while the groovy "Mary Jane" is about a very nice girl. Sadly, the vocals in some of the more ballad-y songs ("Pacino") sound a bit forced. Fortunately for the song "N.T.F." however, the vocals are backed up with bouncy, almost cute instrumentation.

EPdemic shows that illScarlett likes to have fun and experiment with its music, among other things. This CD also shows that sooner or later, even the most unlikely of genres will be combined. And why not? Expecting musical genres to remain distinct is about as foolish as believing that "Mary Jane" is about a very nice girl.

Reggae musicians who sing about

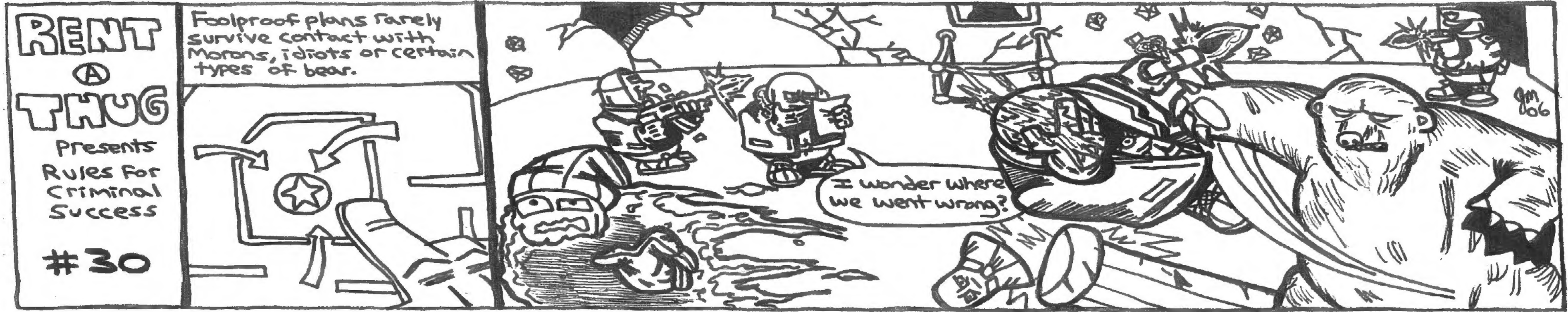
BITTEN by Robin Sissons



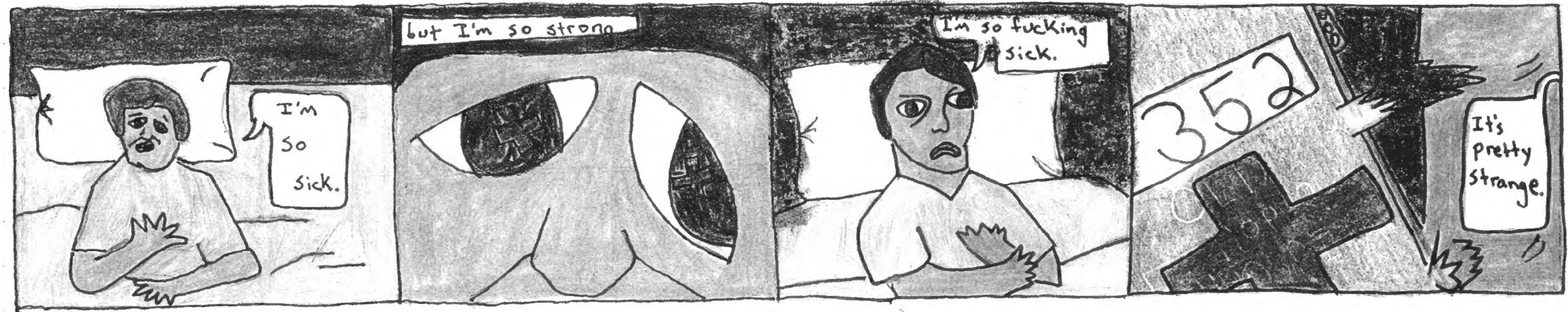
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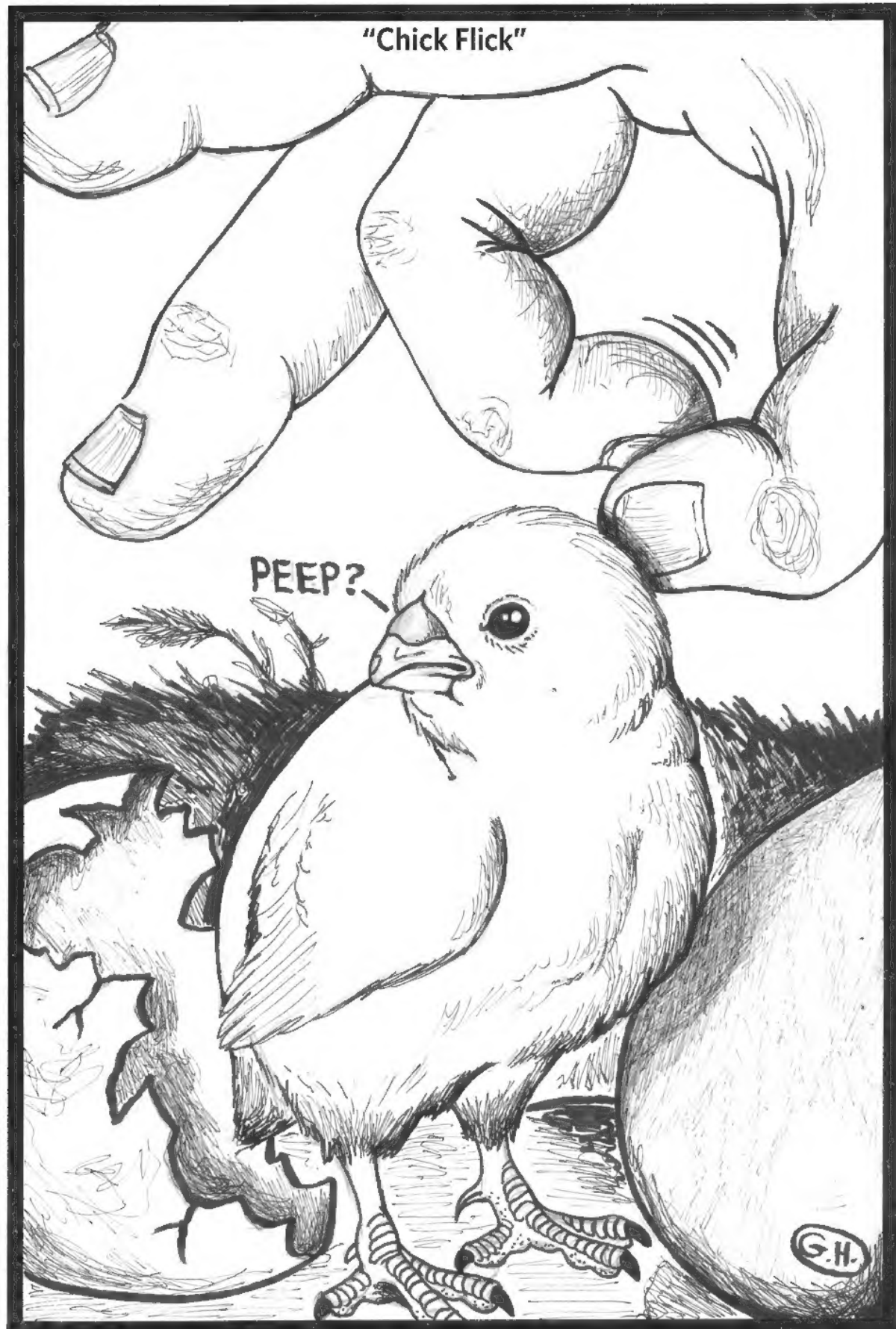
RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



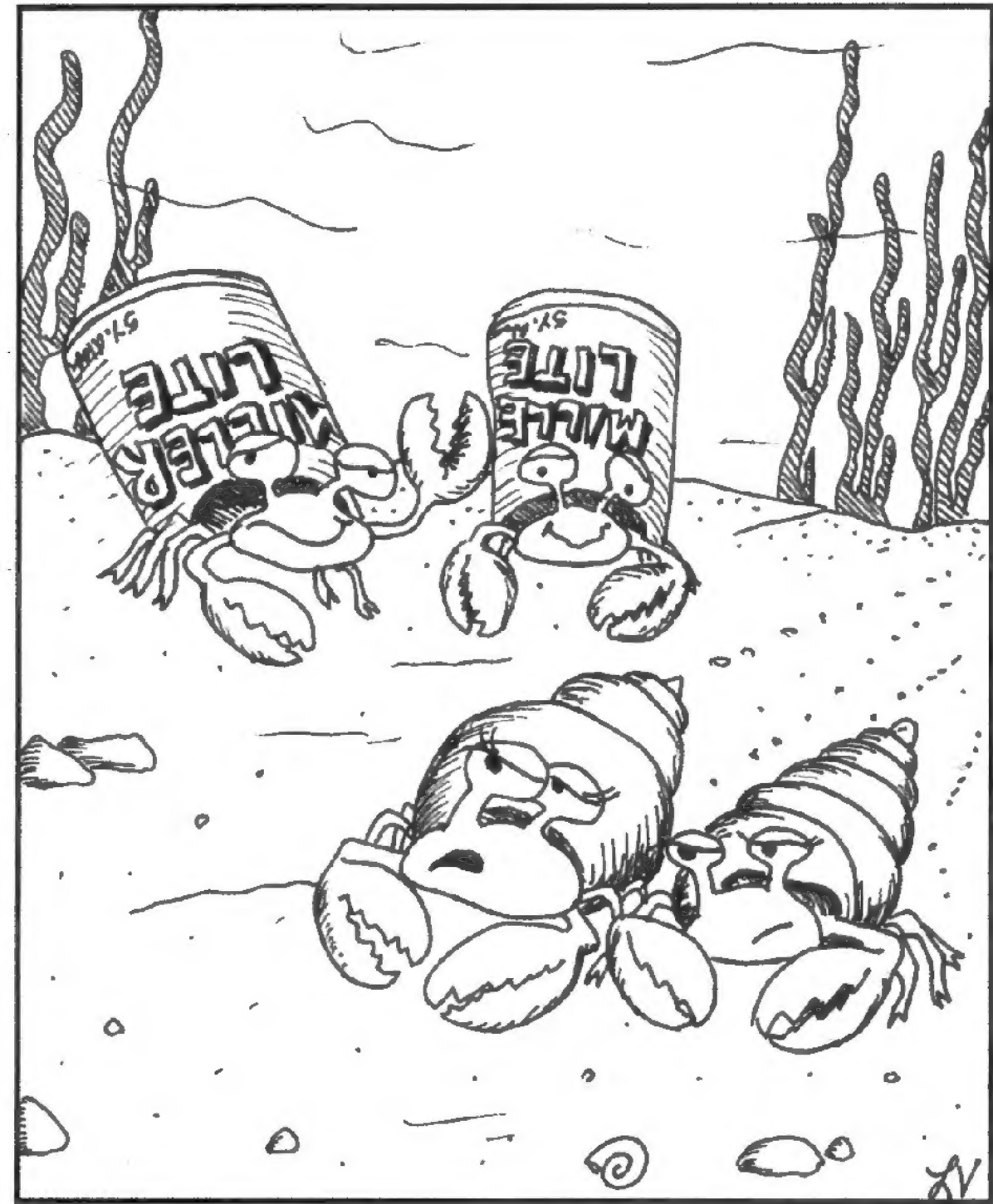
SICKMAN by Brad Sime



GRATUITOUS GROANERS by Phil & Graeme Head



SYNAPSE by Liv S Vors



STEVE NASH LIVING & LOVING by Braden Deane (CUP)





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THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 30 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ tuesday, 30 january, 2007



PHIL HEAD

COCAINE COWBOY Matt Mays thought he was Corey Hart on Friday night with his spiffy shades and suave suit.

Canada-US relations strong: Wilkens

TRISTAN FOLINSBEE
News Staff

The American ambassador to Canada said he was “personally offended” by a question from an audience member at the 2007 Henry Marshall Tory lecture series last Wednesday night at the Telus Centre at the University of Alberta.

The event that precipitated that offence occurred at the end of Ambassador David Wilkins’ talk, when an audience member made reference to the recent trial and execution of Saddam Hussein, and asked Wilkins whether “as a lawyer,” he saw

any similarities between US President George W Bush and the executed dictator. Wilkins didn’t equivocate in his response.

“[Saddam Hussein] was tried. He was tried by his own people, and he was found guilty. And he paid the price for his crime. And for you to mention a dictator, a murderer, in the same sentence as President Bush is really beyond my comprehension, and I’ll tell you, I’m personally offended by it. I can’t understand it. It’s inappropriate, and you and I will just have to disagree on that,” Wilkins said.

That exchange marked the only tension in what was a relatively congenial

discussion. Wilkins, who called his speech “a conversation” with the U of A community, relayed anecdotes of his 19-month term as ambassador, and spent as much time discussing his reaction to Canadian winters as he did discussing trade disputes and passport requirements.

“I remember, it was in July, in the oval office ... the President said, ‘How you holding up with the weather?’ I said, ‘Mr President, the Canadians say it’s the mildest winter they’d ever had—it’s the coldest I’ve ever seen,’” said Wilkins, to polite laughter from the audience.

PLEASE SEE **WILKENS** ♦ PAGE 4

BOG green lights residence rent rise

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Armed with 1700 signatures, student representatives urged the University of Alberta’s Board of Governors to vote against a proposed ten per cent increase for campus residences. However, neither the petition nor the fact that the Residence Hall Association had voted against the increase in the fall could defer the motion.

The BoG meeting on 26 January was the final stop prior to the University’s finalization of their 2007/08 budget. Amid talks of escalating deferred maintenance costs and budget sensitivities, the Board empathized with student concerns but, nevertheless, supported the rent increase proposal.

“They raised it? I signed the petition—I thought that would make a difference,” International House resident Tracy Cantin said upon hearing that her rent would soon pass the \$500 mark.

But while living on campus will be pricier as of 1 May, 2007, U of A Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein stressed that the increases are required to address serious concerns.

“We’re not talking about painting walls and putting up new carpets.

We’re talking about critical building systems,” Amrhein said.

During his presentation for the proposed rent hike, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Don Hickey explained that, unlike the rest of U of A infrastructure, the municipal act allows the City of Edmonton to charge property taxes on University residences and commercial operations. And because residences are generally only occupied for eight months, the University faces difficulties in covering the costs.

“They raised it? I signed the petition—I thought that would make a difference.”

**TRACY CANTIN,
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE RESIDENT**

“The reality in recent years is the fact that the residence operations are running at a deficit as a result of expenses increasing faster than revenues,” Hickey explained.

PLEASE SEE **RENT** ♦ PAGE 3
ALSO READ **FEDIO** ON PAGE 5

Wright speaks on progress gone wrong

British writer focused on the downfall of ancient societies, and the dangers to our own civilization

STEFFI ROSSKOPF
News Staff

Being a resident at the University of Alberta’s International House is certainly not without its perks. After current Secretary General of Amnesty International Irene Khan and Canadian diplomat Stephen Lewis in the last year, Ronald Wright was the third distinguished guest to participate in the I-House Exclusive speaker series.

The British author came to I-House on Sunday for an informal discussion with students about his latest bestseller, *A Short History of Progress*, and the challenges facing our civilization today. The event predated his official keynote address yesterday, which opened the U of A’s International Week 2007.

Wright spoke to University officials and international students from over 13 countries, elaborating on

his studies of the “civilizations of the Americas” at the University of Calgary and how they influenced his later work, which focused on the Aztec, Incan and Mayan cultures and their collapse.

“In the case of the Aztec and the Inca, they were finished off by Europeans invading the Americas. Particularly by the diseases that came with the Europeans to which the native people in this Hemisphere didn’t have any resistance to,” he explained.

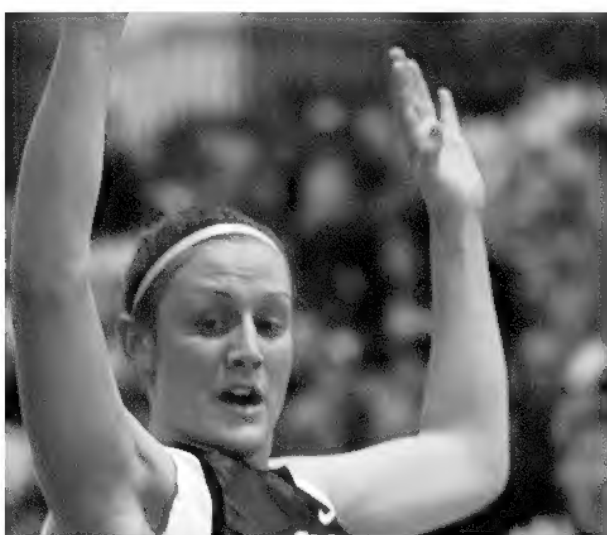
But in opposition to that point, he also emphasized that the Mayan civilization Mayas collapsed “hundreds of years before Europeans came ... because of something it did to itself.”

Wright shared with his audience this simple fact, noting that he’s concerned that we might be promoting another cultural collapse, this time on a global scale.

PLEASE SEE **WRIGHT** ♦ PAGE 4

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Saskatche-robbed

The Huskies came to steal two wins from the Pandas, but wound up having their stuff pilfered instead.

SPORTS, PAGE 8



Just like Matt Damon

F-Ray cooks up an ingenious plan to get a free education: not pay for it. That, and just read all the books.

COMICS, PAGE 15

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colophon

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ALSO ON BOARD FOR THE BOG

Aside from the rent increase proposal, the Board of Governors also decided on a number of other budget items

A complimentary smorgasbord of fruit and muffins awaited the Board of Governor members and dedicated public spectators able to drag themselves out of bed for the start of the 8am BoG meeting last Friday. Debate on the proposed rent increase took up a large portion of the four-hour public session; however, during that time copious cups of coffee were consumed and the following three proposals were also carried:

PARKING RATES

Campus commuters have more than rising gas prices and traffic jams to face if they plan to continue driving to the University of Alberta.

Historically, parking rate changes come into effect 1 September; however, a motion was passed to change the date to align with the beginning of their fiscal year.

Effective 1 April, 2007, all U of A monthly parking permit rates will increase by 3.6 per cent to match cost of living adjustments, with main campus facing an additional monthly parking permit rate increases of five per cent in 2007/08, followed by a five per cent and ten per cent increase over the next two years. The extra revenues will be put towards ongoing supplemental costs.

Prior to voting on the proposal,

University Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Don Hickey gave a presentation on the North Campus supplemental, specifically how the increases support the University's travel demand management plan (TDM). The plan—pursued in collaboration with the City of Edmonton—was designed to increase public transit and reduce transport and environmental concerns.

The University owns a total of 8760 parking stalls in a variety of surface, parkade and underground facilities in Edmonton, and on the Augustana campus; 96 per cent of those stalls are found at the main campus.

Hickey noted that 80 per cent of vehicles coming to the University are single-occupant, with an average overall occupancy rate of only 1.2 people per vehicle. And according to the proposal, the discrepancy between the price of a monthly parking permit and a monthly bus pass isn't significant enough to promote public transit usage.

MEAL PLANS

The Board of Governors voted in favour of an increase to the Lister Hall meal plan, which amped up the costs 5-6.65 per cent for the individual plans.

The change was prompted by an evaluation of the Lister meal program

carried out last January by the Canadian College and University Food Services Association. The CCUFSA found that, while the meal plans have remained approximately the same price for many years, food prices have risen substantially. This, according to the evaluation, made the meal plans less useful to students, and recommended an annual price increase of 8-9 per cent for three years to give students more flexibility in what they could purchase with the plan.

Phyllis Clark, University of Alberta Vice-President (Finance & Administration), explained that support for the plan was universal among the administration and, ultimately, those paying into the plan.

"[The proposal] is supported by the Students' Association in residence, because it really does make it better for them," Clark said.

Michael Janz, Lister Hall Student Association President, agreed, saying that the five per cent increase was to match against CPI, plus an extra bump to make it GST-compliant.

According to the new system, meal Plans A, B, C, and D will see an increase of five per cent, while the priciest program, Plan E, will see a bump of 6.65 per cent.

TUITION

Tuition was also on the menu for the BoG, as they approved a proposal to

increase tuition by 3.3 per cent for the upcoming year, the maximum allowed under legislation that links tuition prices to Alberta's Consumer Price Index.

The increase, according to Carl Amrhein, the University of Alberta Provost, is meant to keep up with the rising costs that the institution has to contend with.

"We asked for 3.3 per cent, and we recognize that all the operating costs are rising at a level equal or greater to CPI in Alberta," Amrhein said.

He further explained that, on top of the current costs, University Administration is looking to make improvements to the learning environment of the U of A, specifically targeting the current student-professor ratio.

Clark also said that the increased tuitions costs as a whole were linked to rising maintenance costs, a problem that grows as the U of A campus gets older.

"We've got a lot of critical building systems in an aging infrastructure that we need to maintain. It's not a great situation to be in," she said, adding that more support from the provincial government would be needed to keep tuition costs from rising.

—Compiled by Natalie Climenhaga and Scott Lilwall

STREETERS

St Swithin's Church in Lincoln, England, recently decided to do away with hymns in favour of popular music, in what they're calling "the U2-charest."

What popular music do you think they should incorporate into their sermons, and why?



Renee Kubbernus, Nursing I



Karen Schaaf, Nursing I



Matthew Coates Engineering II



Brad Myck Engineering I

The Titanic song, "My Heart Will Go On." Because it's so sad, and religion is all about being sad.

I would definitely incorporate '80s music, because it's awesome. "Spandau Ballet," because it's in a video game I like to play and I think we need more of this cultural-computer stuff going on.

I think they should incorporate "It's Raining Men," because that would be hilarious to hear in a church.

"Bringin' Sexy Back," because it's a damned good tune.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Phil Head

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MIKE OTTO

NOW WITH TEN PER CENT MORE RENT The rent increase was one of the many budget items voted on by the BoG.

Upkeep prompted rent hike:Amrhein

RENT ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hickey broke down the increase into two separate parts: a 3.6 per cent increase to match cost of living adjustments would go towards offsetting general inflationary pressures against labor, utilities, and property taxes. However, an additional 6.4 per cent increase above inflation was required to address deferred maintenance demands.

Hickey further addressed the concerns of student residences groups that had complained increasing rental rates could make the University less affordable to out-of-town students.

“Residences affect the overall University experience of the students—it is an important tool in recruitment and retention,” Hickey said. “I know raising prices isn’t the greatest incentive for being more attractive, but we do want students to stay in Alberta for their education and we do want to attract and retain the best.”

“We do provide affordability to residents [with] rents that are kept below market rates within the city,” he added.

However, Students’ Union President Samantha Power said that while a 3.6 per cent increase for cost of living adjustments was understandable, it was the additional 6.4 per cent increase that posed a problem. She expressed confusion as to whether the increase was being justified by making comparisons to market rates.

“An increase in the market rates in the surrounding campus area allows us to have an affordable price on the rest of our residences so that students see it as an affordable option,” Power said.

Amrhein responded to Power’s queries, remaining adamant that “the focus here is the deferred maintenance.”

“I do not believe resident halls should charge market rates,” he said, explaining that previous discussions about market rates were to explain how residence rates haven’t risen significantly in the past.

“The resident rates would be even higher than they are now had we calculated and collected CPI every year for the last ten, 15, 20 years,” Amrhein said, adding that because of previously stable rates the residences have been left without sufficient cash reserves.

“If Lister Hall goes down rural kids are not going to have a place to live while they go to university.”

**DOUG IRWIN,
BOARD MEMBER**

“I do not want to sound alarmist, but when I begin to hear the [Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)] start talking about critical building systems like power sub-stations and transformers and elevators I begin to think about health and safety issues,” Amrhein said, noting past amenity disasters the University has faced.

“You saw the Tory building go offline when there was a major plumbing failure, you saw the swimming pool go out of use for six months because the entire plumbing and water system simply dissolved for lack of appropriate

attention,” he recalled. “I begin to worry about an occurrence on some weekday when we have a residence hall go out of use.”

But, when presented with the gravity of the deferred maintenance situation, Power reminded the Board that the current reality contradicted the opinion of students who felt they had been paying for these services all along.

“Continually throughout the ‘90s we were told that our tuition increases were going towards maintaining quality and it’s clear that they weren’t,” Power said. “[So] you can understand my skepticism in terms of where this money is going in residences and I’m not sure that it’s a quality issue. I understand the health and safety concerns, but wouldn’t that make a great appeal to the provincial government and to other areas of investment instead of just falling back on students once again?”

But while the fiscal pressures of the University were well understood, board member Doug Irwin was among those frustrated with the lack of provincial support for postsecondary institutions.

“We’ve got to get the quality back up, we have to. But we’ve got to help government understand in ways that affects their kids,” Irwin said. “If Lister Hall goes down rural kids are not going to have a place to live while they go to university.”

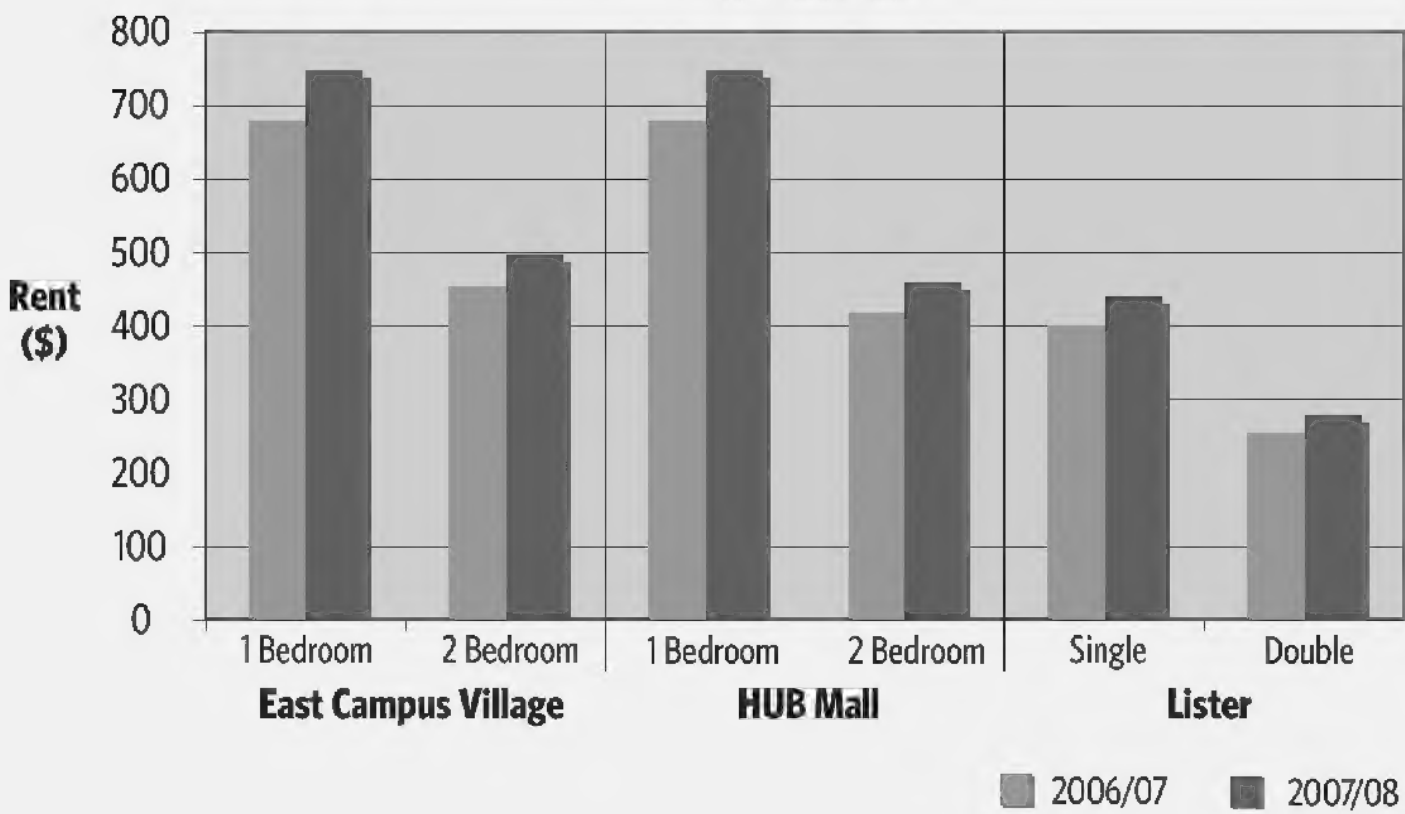
However, Power made the distinction between recognizing the problems facing students and finding solutions to fix them.

“Affordability is a problem pointed out by many Board members, but why continuously do we keep deferring the question of when we’re going to take a stand?” Power said.

THE COSTS OF LIVING

How the University’s increases look on paper

U of A Residence Rent Increases for 2007-08



• Rent is expected to increase across the board for University of Alberta residences. With the exception of East Campus Village apartments and Augustana residences, costs of renting will raise by ten per cent for all residents.

• According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the average rent for a one bedroom apartment in Edmonton for 2006 was \$666, while a two bedroom was \$808.

• At Grant MacEwan, a bachelor suite totalled approximately \$631 a month in 2005. The two-bedroom residences run at \$533 a month, per person.

In the past few years, rent increases at the U of A have remained at or under inflation. For 2002/03 and 2003/04, rent increased by 5 per cent. 2004/05 saw a raise of 3 per cent. The information for the most recent year was not available in the BoG minutes or agenda.

PLEASE SEE MORE INFO ON THE BOG MEETING ♦ PAGE 2

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Progress can be a danger to society: Wright

WRIGHT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wright explained that he believes society is falling into what he calls a “progress trap”—his term for an idea that seems beneficial at first, but soon becomes so complicated and complex that it can lead to truly disastrous results.

He began by reading an excerpt from his book and then engaged students in a discussion about the challenges of overpopulation, depletion of natural resources and climate change faced by our civilization today.

Topics of the discussion further included issues ranging from the economic boom in Alberta and the environmental concerns relating to the northern oil sands. Suggestions on what can be done to prevent these traps from happening to our own society focused on putting technology under public control, instead of under the power of profit-driven corporations.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

ON THE WAY TO A SOFT BED

At 1:05am on 24 January, a woman was found sleeping in CAB near the pedway to Cameron Library. Campus Security learned that she had been sleeping there for at least three nights in a row; since she was mentally ill and had no fixed address, constables left her in the care of the Women's Emergency Action Centre.

SAVING UP HIS CASH FOR BEER

On 26 January, a male resident of Lister Hall was busted for eating food from the Marina without paying. He allegedly paid for some items, but not those he attempted to smuggle from the shop in his tummy. He was fined \$50 under the Code of Student Behaviour.

DESPITE EVERY PRECAUTION

On 25 or 26 January, a bike was stolen from the East Campus Village. It was locked up in the secure bike storage area with a cable lock and a U-lock. The bicycle in question is a red, black, and silver Trek 4900 valued at approximately \$900.

A CASE OF AFTERNOON MUCHIES

Between 2–4pm on 27 January, a locked fridge was broken into in the Corbett Café. Perps unknown also attempted to crack open a vending machine but were unsuccessful. There was substantial damage to the vending machine.

INTOXICATED AND INTERNATIONAL

At 3:15am on 28 January, 5-0 pulled over a vehicle on 87 Avenue for driving slowly and generally impeding the flow of traffic. The constable quickly discovered the man was unable to speak or understand English, and as an added bonus appeared to be somewhat intoxicated. He provided an international license, which was promptly suspended for 24 hours. The adventurous traveller was arrested and released to Edmonton Police, who were able to provide a translator. He was not affiliated with the University.

JESUS PREFERS RUTHERFORD

At 12:55pm on 28 January, constables on patrol found a familiar male loitering outside Cameron Library. The man believed himself to be Jesus, and 5-0 issued him an official trespass notice. He was told the consequences of entering campus in the future, a fact our friend disputed as he claimed to be studying to get a Master's degree. The man then became agitated and started pacing back and forth. He stated he would be in contact with his lawyer.



MIKE OTTO

WE LOVE YOU THIS MUCH Wilkins says despite trade disputes, Canada and the US still have that old flame burning.

Wilkins sees two nations as ‘a family’

WILKINS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, Wilkins did get to meatier issues after his stories of skating on the Rideau Canal and petting polar bears in Churchill. He discussed the tension spawned by trade disputes, such as the closing of the border to Canadian cattle after mad cow disease was discovered in 2003. Wilkins said that some of that unease has decreased during his term.

“The relationship [between Canada and the US] is very much on an upward trend, there's more feeling of shared responsibility, there's an attempt to fix problems rather than fix the blame. An example is BSE—the President has said he very much wants to open the border to Canadian cattle ... hopefully, by mid-

year, the border will be reopened, and we'll be back to where we were pre-BSE,” Wilkins said.

“Canada is a great nation, and it never has to tear us up to build itself up.”

**DAVID WILKINS,
AMBASSADOR TO CANADA**

Wilkins also addressed what he called perceived anti-Americanism in Canadian society.

“The next observation I want to talk

to you about is anti-US rhetoric, something you may have heard about in Canada. People [in the US] ask me about it. I think often there's a disconnect between what you hear in the media, and what I hear, and sense and feel from Canadians, as I talk to them about the United States, and my President. Canada is a great nation, and it never has to tear us up to build itself up,” Wilkins said.

Former-deputy prime minister Anne McLellan, who delivered some closing remarks and presented Wilkins with some books on gardening, agreed, saying that Canada and the US were “family.”

“And families can disagree,” McLellan said.

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What's another ten per cent increase among friends?

DESPITE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF RED TAPE surrounding the annual tuition hike, the University's Board of Governors has persevered and found a way to squeeze more money out of its cash-strapped students. Since the province's new affordability standards prevented the University from raising tuition by more than 3.3 per cent, they cleverly made up the difference by increasing rent in residences by 10 per cent—and with the added bonus of only having to hear 4400 students complain about it instead of the entire campus.

In the fall of 2006, the University of Alberta fell victim to the Affordability Crusade when the Alberta Government limited tuition increases to the Consumer Price Index, strangling the BoG's ability to fund this growing institution. The U of A was on a comfortable spending path, funded by tuition increases that have seen students pay \$2258.40 more in fees since 1994/95.

But while increases over the years were attributed to the need to keep this institution afloat in an age of growing maintenance and operating costs, the University didn't get around to funding residence facilities. Data presented to the BoG on 26 January estimated that deferred maintenance in the residences comes at \$49 million, while the abatement of asbestos will come in at no less than \$120 million. Surely if students expect livable housing they won't mind stretching their wallets a little more—especially since tuition is hovering at the bargain rate of \$4687 next year, not including the mandatory student fees. But \$250 per term is mere pocket change for those of us with part-time jobs.

In the past year, Edmonton's housing market has seen a huge spike, so why should students be getting a deal? It's simply not realistic to expect the University to subsidize students living in residence—even though they're charging market rates for broom closets. Between 1994–2006, residence rates increased by a 34 per cent, but buildings are getting older, so it only makes sense that students should be paying more. And to be fair, though the bulk of students will be paying an extra 10 per cent in rent, the BoG has given students living in East Campus Village houses a break with a mere 7.12 per cent increase, while students at Augustana will be practically stealing their Camrose quarters for just 3.6 per cent more.

Alberta is a wealthy province, so it follows that all of its residents are as well. And even though there are new barriers to limit tuition increases, this doesn't mean that more funding can't come from students themselves. Sure, with over 30 000 students on this campus, increasing tuition would be a simpler way to get the funding; an extra \$5 each would result in an added \$150 000 for the coffers, probably helping the U of A forge ahead with its daring vision of being among the top 20 universities in the world by 2020. Instead, the BoG has approved a scheme that will see students in residence footing the extra bill on their own. With wily administrators working at this fair institution, we're sure to go down in history as one of the best.

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

But ... but ... popozao ...

APPARENTLY ALL THE MEN IN BRITNEY SPEARS' life can't help but make a fool of themselves during the Super Bowl. First it was ex-boyfriend Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson's notorious "wardrobe malfunction," and now her estranged husband K-Fed has angered the fast food industry with a 30-second ad slated to run during the third quarter of the NFL season's pinnacle event.

Federline said he never meant for the commercial—in which he assumes the role of a fry cook dreaming of the big time—to offend America's minimum-wage workers. The commercial begins with the once-upon-a-time backup dancer decked out in all his bling and rapping the song "Rolling VIP," only for it to turn out as a burger-flipper's daydream. Here's to hoping it's a sign he's finally realized he can't make it as a rapper.

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Dude, Telus is letting us download adult content on our phones now!

Pfft, my little brother's been doing that on his Wii for months ...



MIKE KENDRICK

LETTERS

Wedding's off between Canada and Pakistan

"Engagement" is a vague word, loaded with potential consequences that those such as Mr Lettner have clearly not grappled with (re: "Canada needs its own plan of attack," 25 January). In Canada's efforts in Afghanistan, Mr Lettner's piece identifies "engaging" Pakistan as a key component of Afghanistan's reconstruction.

Unfortunately, this ever-expanding strain of thought is based on the false assumption that (a) Pakistan's government has the control of its largely autonomous Inter-Services Intelligence sympathetic to the Taliban, and (b) that there is a political will of the government to crack down on a movement widely supported by the Sunni Pakistanis and their populous of Pashtun refugees.

Speaking to the first point, about two weeks ago a captured Taliban militant admitted that the Taliban's leader Mullah Omar was in fact being harboured in the Pakistani border town of Quetta, under the protection of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence.

On top of this support, the central government in Islamabad runs the risk of losing the popular support of its Sunni majority for taking too aggressive a stance against the Taliban, also a Sunni movement. Despite the occasional ceremonial strike on Taliban madrassahs in the border region designed to please NATO members, anything more aggressive would lead to widespread protest, and perhaps the

Taliban turning the knife on their main benefactor in Islamabad.

Considering all these domestic political realities in Pakistan, it is unreasonable to expect any fundamental change in their policy toward the Taliban through diplomacy. In a situation such as this, where the dramatic change called for (by those like Mr Lettner and Jack Layton) through "engagement" could jeopardize the very existence of the current Pakistani Administration, the options as thin as they are dire.

In order to secure the desired change in Pakistani policy, our only option of "engagement" would be taking a page out of the American post-9/11 approach to courting Pakistan by threatening to bomb their country "back to the stone age." Surely this isn't the "engagement" Mr Lettner and Mr Layton are advocating?

LLOYD SUCHET
Arts III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student ID number to be considered for publication.

Furthermore, e-mails featuring excessive amounts of exclamation marks, all-caps, large font sizes, and emoticons, are liable to be ridiculed mercilessly by the editorial staff.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

More school spirit stat!

A University is supposed to be an institution, and this one is no exception. Maybe I'm one of those people who thinks everyone is crazy but themselves, but I'll ask you to bide with me a while.

Perhaps I'm a little off the old rocker, but a few people have agreed with me in the thought that [the] U of A is just a little bit dead. We come here for an education, but it takes a lot of things to make a civilized individual out of the raw material that enters the portals of learning each fall, and not the least of these is a social life which teaches one to get along with his fellow men and to be able to meet a person and leave a good impression. Embodied in this are certain social graces, such as seeing the other fellow's point of view and being at home in the many situations in which one might be called upon to exercise his powers of being agreeable.

Varsity affairs leave much to be desired in this way. A lack of cooperation on both sides is evident. We have a fine band in town now, which can play to please everyone, and a floor that is the best around. The Wajnerita was held at the Barn—why shouldn't the others? It's a great place—but, someone will say, it is available only on Monday or Tuesday. Well, we can dance as well on Tuesday as on Saturday, and if what comes after spoils the next day for learning, why not leave your crock and so on

for Saturday night? The Wajnerita is an experiment. Will it work? I hope the professors will note the various "morning after" reactions and comment on them so we can see where we stand.

I said above that we can dance as well on Tuesday as on Saturday, but that doesn't seem to be very well. This is a poor place to find good dancers, but I had a far-fetched scheme in mind for a Saturday afternoon music session—a time for beginners to loosen up and learn, and those that are really good to show the others how and have a good time all around. With something of this sort we could develop some of the musical talent that is lying around dormant, and put out an orchestra we could well be proud of. Come on, dust off the place and pull the cobwebs down.

A horrible anomaly of this place is that it is a university but it has no college spirit. Anyone who heard the first half of the game last Saturday would certainly notice a lack of enthusiasm. We went because it was the thing to do, and besides it was nice out. What a hell of a way to go to college! And how many took the trouble to look up the Saskatchewan yell to offer them a part of what they deserve?

House dances speak for themselves. If you have no date, no social aspirations and no dough, you go to a house dance. Something has to happen, but I wonder what.

I suppose everyone thinks I'm like that all the time. No, I'm not a natural pessimist, but I think the U of A social life and college spirit could use a real shot in the arm.

Aw, what's the use!

"A SOPHOMORE"
24 October 1941

Are money shots costing us too much?

Porn is just the tip of the iceberg—not the big, floaty part beneath



PAUL
KNOECHEL

point

You don't go about weeding your lawn by picking off all the heads of the dandelions and proclaiming a job well done. Nor should you go around beating up every guy your girlfriend makes out with while you're out of town (or so the police tell me). These are misguided actions against a problem that won't go away by fighting the superficial results. Instead, one must grow up and deal with the underlying issues, as it's the only way for progress to be made. So I'm begging all those of you out there that have an issue with the objectification and exploitation of women to do something productive and stop acting out against porn.

There are many weak anti-porn arguments that float around. For one thing, concerns about kids being exposed to porn don't bring up any concerns against porn itself, but rather with parenting. As well, watching too much porn is a *compulsion*, not an *addiction*—and even if porn didn't exist, these “addicts” would be doing something else compulsively to avoid their lives. And you can't claim porn encourages violence against women because, in Japan at least, when porn shifted from essentially illegal to legal from 1972 to 1995, the incidence of rape actually *dropped* by two thirds. Sounds like less violence against women to me.

This is not to say that porn is a good thing—at least, not all of it is. “Exploited College Girls,” “Barely Legal,” and similar sites make me sick. But the porn industry is *huge*, and a few ethical

dilemmas aren't going to shut down such a money-maker and its many shakers. But economics aside, just because some parts of the porn industry suck in no way means that we should attack porn as a whole. There are some terrible things the Internet has spawned, but I can't think of anyone claiming that the World Wide Web should be shut down completely. That's because people realize that in this case the problem lies with the source and not the medium.

And while it seems at first like there's a point to be made in the idea that poor young women are being forced into an industry just to make ends meet, this argument doesn't really hold water. What about all the women that have jobs they hate? What about the single mom at Wal-Mart that hates her work but has no other options? Do they deserve less attention because they're not naked? If anything, they make a lot less money than their pornographic counterparts, so how come no one champions their cause? It's because people really have a problem with sex on film, which is their personal issue, not anyone else's. If those fighting porn really cared about the women who are “forced” into it, they'd be fighting for more than just the poor porn actress who may well like her job a lot more than the underpaid retail clerk.

I know there are a lot of good intentions when it comes to scapegoating porn, but the fact remains that we were all born hard-wired for seeking out sex. Even if we existed in a society completely free from the exploitation of women, porn would still exist, and would flourish just as well as it does today. Instead, we should focus on the unwritten rules in our society that say women should be evaluated by their looks alone or that they belong in submissive gender-roles. Until we do, it doesn't matter how much of a racket you stir up against porn; you might as well be picking daisies.

The porn industry exploits and oppresses the women involved



ELIZABETH
MCMILLAN

counterpoint

My astute colleague here imagines pornography to be the bright yellow flowers on the lawn of society's ills. In his opinion, porn is the “superficial result” of the “underlying issue.” Presumably the issue is that people would be much happier watching porn without considering that it contributes to the systematic problem of not only objectifying women, but exploiting them. While it's easy to argue that the treatment of women within the porn industry is unrelated to casual viewing, it all comes down to supply and demand.

Just because individuals—men and women, singles and couples, straight and queer, young and old—watch pornography, it doesn't mean they're bad people. But at the risk of interfering with their viewing pleasure, porn consumers are buying into a multi-billion industry that profits from the exploitation of women. Of course, not all porn is misogynistic, degrading, racist or violent—but a lot of it is.

Do porn participants willingly decide to enter into the porn industry? Certainly, to an extent. But not everyone has the luxury of turning down the opportunity to make that kind of money when they come from a low-income background, have little to no educational opportunities and hold few employable skills. Add in, as is so often the case, a history of sexual abuse and a drug addiction to boot, and it's easy to see that selling their bodies is the only way some women can afford to feed themselves—and possibly their children at home.

There's also a stigma attached to it: thus even if a woman views her own role in the industry innocently, very few others will, making a career change difficult if not impossible.

When Jenna Jameson published her memoir, *How to Make Love Like a Porn Star*, there was plenty of publicity surrounding the 30-year-old's rise to fame and fortune. What lacked was meaningful discussion about how her early experiences of drug addiction and rape contributed to her career choice.

Paul cites a study showing that when porn became legal in Japan, incidents of rape dropped. Could this be true—could porn actually be *protecting* women? Buying into this argument would suggest that abusing women is inevitable, unless men have an outlet like pornography to release their pent up sexual aggression.

But rape is not about sex, or needing sex, or sexual tension. It's about power. Secondly, since porn has been roaming free in Japan, other major changes have occurred too. Variables that could also have a significant impact include the feminist movement, law enforcement, sexual education, amendments to the legal definition of rape and the number of reported assaults. It's difficult enough to correlate sexual aggression with pornography—we can't summarize an entire country's sexual behaviour over 30 years.

Critiquing pornography isn't equivalent to taking an anti-sex stance or having uptight morals. Human sexuality is natural; being forced into degrading situations on camera for profit is not. Therefore the best way to confront porn is to be aware of what you're watching. Get off on it if you want, but don't ignore the bigger picture. If we lived in an equitable society, would there still be pornography? Of course. Maybe even arousing, equitable, non-violent images. Until then, forget the flowers Paul—get a close-up on the cum shot.

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Modern sexuality leaves us with more options than ever before



AMANDA
TERMEER

Just as the styles and fashions are replaced each season, sexuality is equally fluid. During the so-called decadent periods in 19th-century France and England, homosexuality was a popular form of experimentation among the nobility. The Ancient Greeks and Romans were also notorious for their “bath houses.” Twenty years ago, with the rise of disco, gay culture became mainstream. In recent years, lesbians have gained acceptance on the strength of shows like *The L Word*. Now, from pop culture to campuses, bisexuality is the newest craze in the sexual world.

I’m going to be honest: I’ve hopped on the bandwagon. I’ve experimented with bisexuality, and I’m proud of it. The girls you see making out in the sex cage at New City Suburbs? Yep, that could’ve been me. An innocent game of truth or dare turned naughty with your roommate? Been there, done that. A naughty dance and kiss with a drag queen? Oh yes. You can judge me all you want, but my bisexuality isn’t going to go away.

Even guys seem more inclined to admit their homoerotic fantasies than previous generations. Just as Angelina Jolie is a common sexual fantasy for girls, Johnny Depp appeals to most men. I’ve had several male friends reveal that they’ve indeed made out

with a member of the same sex. There are several reasons for this development. Of course, some people are genuinely attracted to members of the same and opposite sex. Others are curious about their own sexuality and the only way to discover their preference is through experimentation. Some just do it for attention. Perhaps our more tolerant society now allows for more bi-curious behavior as well. Regardless, with every passing day, people are becoming more inclined to try new things.

When people ask me about my sexuality, I reply that I’m “Amanda-sexual.”

In our liberal Canadian society, the “cultural mosaic,” bisexuality is readily accepted among the nightlife. In fact, bisexuality is so often seen at bars and clubs that most people don’t even bat a heavily mascara’d eyelash. However, gays and lesbians are rarely seen making out in the daylight. I’ve only ever kissed a girl in public once—and the looks I received were vicious. What’s acceptable and appreciated in a bar is considered taboo in a public place.

Personally, I think that the term “bisexual” should be thrown away. In fact, all of the phrases dealing with sexuality should be stricken from the dictionary altogether. A concept such as sexuality is too complex to be broken down into a single phrase. Gay. Straight. Homosexual. Heterosexual. Why do people limit themselves to

words? Without words it would be hard to categorize anyone. Would that eliminate prejudice and hatred? Probably not, but it could be a start.

When people ask me about my sexuality, I reply that I’m “Amanda-sexual.” In reality, people who experiment with members of the same sex aren’t necessarily gay. Maybe in 20 years they’ll be happily married to someone of the opposite sex, and roll their eyes at the mention of earlier experimentation.

The largest crime anyone can commit in this case is to deny their cravings. So many people are afraid to act on their bisexual tendencies for fear of social exclusion—this is especially prevalent among men. With all of these women jumping out of the closet and into the sex cage, however, one has to assume that men are equally curious, only less vocal.

Jimmy Urine of the band Mindless Self Indulgence summed up his sexuality in an interview recently: “I have a dick and if it gets hard then that’s good. I walk down the street and if I see a girl and my dick gets hard that’s good and if I see a boy that’s good too and same with seeing a chicken. If my dick gets hard and I want to fuck it then that’s good. People like to attach labels to themselves: straight, gay, S&M—it’s just so simple. It doesn’t matter what you do whether it’s horrible or mainstream or boring, you know what turns you on.”

Therefore, whether you’re into boys, girls, both, or even chickens, it’s best to embrace your sexuality. After all, we are merely humans—that is, biological reproduction machines who enjoy orgasms.

It’s easy to pick on the Apple cult

Steve Jobs will try to sell you almost anything—but sanctuary isn’t one of them

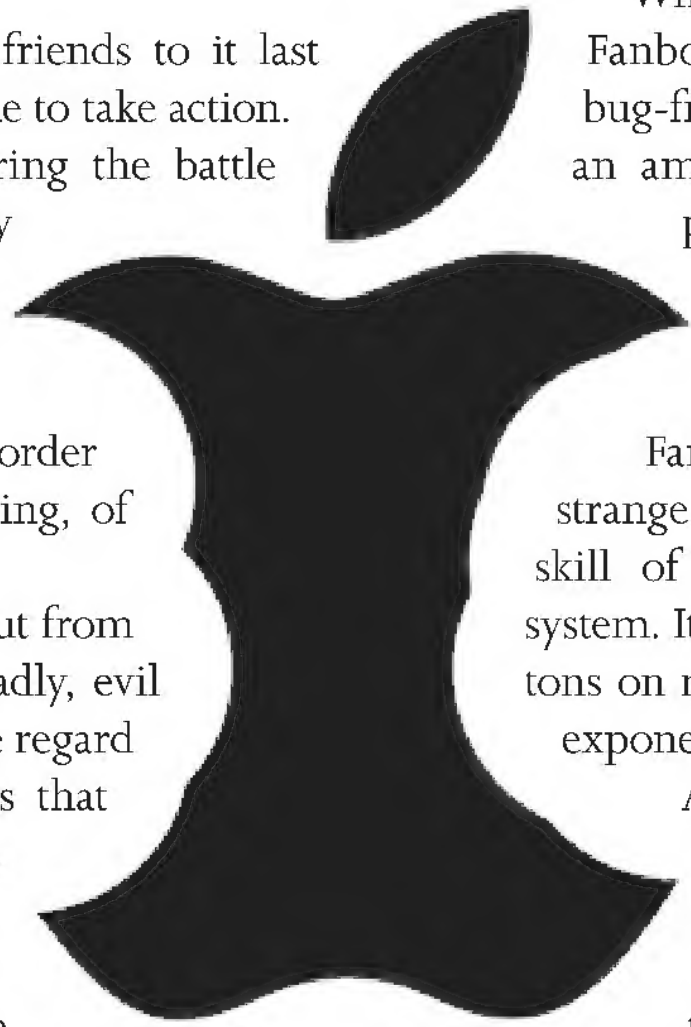


ABDUL TAIYEB
DOCTOR

After losing another one of my friends to it last week, I decided it was finally time to take action. It seems that everyone is ignoring the battle we face on our soil: the one using sneaky tactics to convert ordinary people to their side. So I decided to sink myself deep into a cult that has over the years absorbed many of my closest friends, in order to uncover their deadly secrets. I’m talking, of course, about Apple Inc.

I don’t know a lot about this cult yet, but from what I’ve been able to find out, it’s a deadly, evil sect led by Steve Jobs, whom some people regard to be the Bogeyman. Unlike other cults that sell flowers to fund themselves, Apple has taken an initiative and created the Macintosh computer (more commonly known as the Mac in the underworld) to generate ridiculous streams of money—this “Mac” is sold for a markup of about 235 per cent, according to some observers.

Like most cults, Apple brainwashes its followers, known as “Fanboys,” into thinking that the Macintosh is everything that it’s not. On top of that, to ensure loyalty, they are further brainwashed into thinking that it can’t be infected by viruses, spam, spyware and bots, nor that it can ever “hang” or “crash.” However, this isn’t actually the case, and the only reason people become convinced of it is because the computer attempts to hide everything—and I mean everything, from program files to power buttons—from the end user, in



an attempt to prevent him or her from screwing up. It’s very easy to distinguish a normal human being from a programmed Fanboy. First, Fanboys go through life as virgins due to the sheer fact that they refuse to mate with anyone but Steve Jobs himself. Fanboys also regard themselves to be the cream of the technological crop and don’t seem to mind wearing pink, as they assume that they are high-status enough that no one will judge them.

Whenever confronted by non-Mac-users, Fanboys chant a song known as “the Mac is bug-free.” If further provoked, Fanboys have an amazing capability to scream at a whopping 980 000 decibels and, in the process, shock the provoker senseless.

Another way of distinguishing Fanboys is by their computer mice. Fanboys have been brought up in very strange environments that have disabled their skill of using the more refined two-buttoned system. It seems that increasing the number of buttons on mice decreases their hand functionality exponentially.

Apple Inc has thwarted various attacks on itself by rational people who try to expose them as fakes. The most recent attacks involve Apple Inc making commercials that compare Macs to personal computers, or “PCs.” The commercials imply that the Mac is actually not a personal computer, confusing many of the fiercest Mac critics who were under the assumption that the Mac did in fact fall under this category. This in turn resulted in people going crazy and dishing out thousands of dollars to buy Macs, just to find out what they actually are.

It’s thought that all the money generated due to this mass Mac-buying scheme is being used by Steve Jobs to buy hundreds of black turtlenecks, as well as a few shares of rival software companies—as he knows that Apple will not be successful enough for long, and will finally be exposed for the fraudulent cult they are.

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Bears take come-from-behind win for Danyluk

Down 2-0 to Thunderbirds on Sunday, volleyball team rallies behind assistant coach to complete weekend sweep, stay undefeated on the season

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

While acting as head coach this weekend, Bears volleyball assistant coach Dale Johns was given quite a scare, but Alberta (14-0) recovered from two sets behind Sunday afternoon to down the visiting UBC Thunderbirds 3-2, an identical final score to Saturday afternoon's opening game.

After UBC (11-5) won the first two sets Sunday, it looked like the Bears would suffer their first conference loss of the season, but Alberta stormed back to win the next two sets to tie the match 2-2. The fifth and deciding set required extra points, but Alberta eventually won 18-16, sending players and coaches flooding onto the court in relief over a victory stolen right from under the wings of the 'Birds.

"My heart is still racing a little bit, especially after the third and fourth sets [when we came back to tie it]," Johns said after the game. "We knew that we could come back, it was just whether we could keep it going. I give all the credit to the guys—to give UBC a two-set lead is a hard thing to come back from, but we did it. I'm extremely proud of those guys."

UBC head coach Richard Schick, a former Golden Bear player, was quite frustrated that his squad had Alberta by the neck with a 2-0 lead, but then

blew the last three sets.

"It was a battle this weekend and we played well, but we didn't play well enough to get the result we wanted," Schick noted after Sunday's heartbreaker. "We were in total control of the match, but they battled and we didn't battle back. We played well at times, but we didn't perform well when it counted."

"We definitely wanted to do this for Terry. We wanted to show him that the work he's put in this year and all the years he's been here is paying off."

DALE JOHNS
BEARS ASSISTANT COACH

UBC has played David to Alberta's Goliath in recent years and is the only team to beat the Green and Gold in each of the last two regular seasons. Because his team has had success against strong Alberta clubs in past years and came close to a win this weekend, Schick voiced optimism about UBC's performance and alluded to a possible playoff match later in the season.

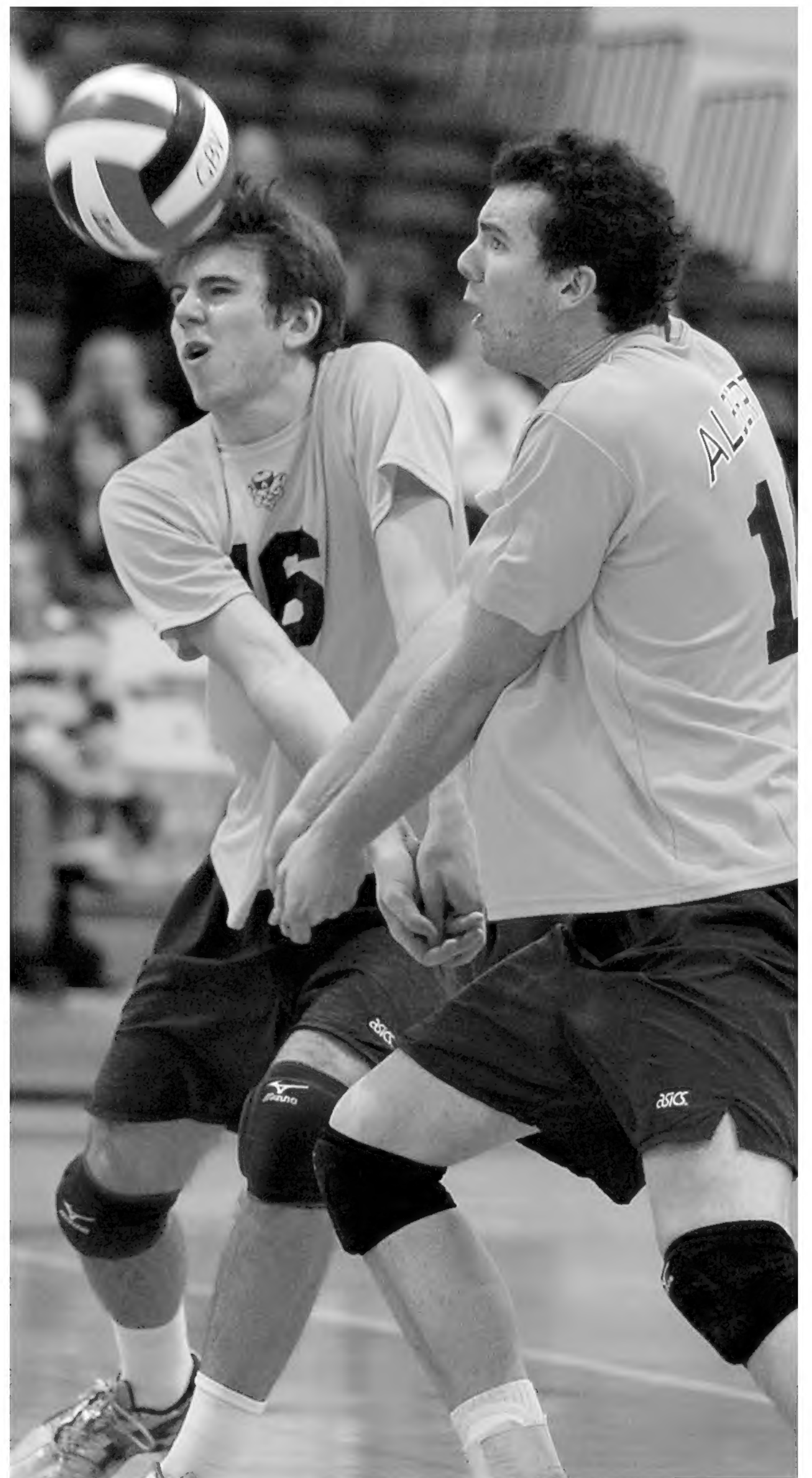
"We've beat [Alberta] before, so we know they're beatable," he said. "Given that they're the number one team in the country and we're the number six team in the country, I'm pretty confident in what we can do if we play them again."

Johns was acting as head coach for Terry Danyluk, who was attending to family matters. He noted that the Bears wanted to win the games this weekend for their coach and to prove the impact he's had on his current squad.

"We definitely wanted to do this for Terry. We wanted to show him that the work he's put in this year and all the years he's been here is paying off. You want to come out and show that the training and coaching that we've done is paying off," Johns said. "The players know that Golden Bears volleyball means a lot to Terry and they wanted to show it to everyone else who came out."

Bears' right side Joel Schmuland led the team in kills both Saturday and Sunday with 19 and 26 respectively, and continues to lead the conference in that category. Schick noted that it was Schmuland's performance that really gave the Bears the edge on Sunday.

"Alberta had one guy that played amazing today and that was their right-side," he said. "We couldn't stop one guy and that cost us the match today."



ANDREW RURAK

FOUR ARMS ARE BETTER THAN TWO Ben Saxton (16) and Tim Gourlay (14) team up to return a serve against UBC during Sunday's comeback victory.



PETE YEE

LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT The Huskies kept Ashley Wigg (white) out of the paint, but couldn't keep the Artful Dodger out of their locker room on Saturday.

Huskies locker room burglarized during win over Pandas Saturday

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

While Saskatchewan Huskies forward Sarah Crooks was racking up a pair of steals against the Pandas basketball squad Saturday night, a different kind of thief was in the Huskies locker room, making off with some of Crooks and her teammates' belongings.

Saskatchewan was set up in P-153 in the Van Vliet Centre during their weekend series against Alberta, and during Saturday's contest—a game the Huskies won 73-67—the room was entered and cash and valuables were taken.

"I had a digital camera stolen and about 50 bucks in cash, but it seemed selective—one row of people didn't have anything taken, some people had their whole wallets taken, some people had just the cash taken," Crooks said.

When the Huskies returned to their room after the game, they found the door still locked, but after maintenance had unlocked it for them, they discovered some of their belongings were missing and others, such as clothes, were shuffled about. Since P-153 is quite a trek from the Main Gym, the Huskies didn't go back to their locker room during halftime, so

it's unsure when during the game the theft took place.

"It seemed to still be locked, but we noticed that everything—cameras, iPods, cash—was gone," Saskatchewan guard Ashley Dutchak said. "If you know the doors are locked, then you definitely don't expect that."

"These are expensive possessions, and it's just so disappointing when you trust that your things are fine, and you don't expect something like that to happen."

SARAH CROOKS
HUSKIES FORWARD

"Hopefully everyone can get things settled, because it's just a pain when people are losing their social insurance cards and Visa cards and having to phone and cancel everything."

"These are expensive possessions, and it's just so disappointing when you trust that your things are fine, and

you don't expect something like that to happen," Crooks added.

Campus Security is still investigating, but operations manager Al Belanger explained that they have very little to go on.

"There's always a chance, but [as of now] there are no suspects—nobody seen going in, nobody seen coming out. It's just one of those mysteries," he said, also noting that the area of the facility being used as a locker room isn't a high risk area and that there hasn't been an incident of this kind in recent memory.

The unfortunate pilfering overshadowed an important weekend for both teams. Saturday's Saskatchewan win coupled with Friday's 77-49 Alberta victory left both teams tied atop the Central Division with four games left to play. However, Alberta holds the head-to-head tiebreaker based on scoring six more points than the Huskies in the four matchups between the two teams this season.

"It's huge [to take the tiebreaker] considering we've lost a bunch of games this term. We've had a chance since the end of last term to put them away, and we haven't, so to get that is great for us," Pandas head coach Scott Edwards said.

The changing face of sports in Canada West

Grant MacEwan is the latest college that wants in to the CIS, but can it compete at a university level?

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

Grant MacEwan College sees its progression from the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) into the Canada West division of the CIS as the next logical step in its continued development. The Edmonton college was given degree-granting status by the provincial government in fall 2005, and with its increased academic programs hopes to offer a more competitive environment for its athletes. However, even with consistent performance in the top of the ACAC rankings, and athletic facilities that rival the University of Alberta's, this feat may be easier said than done.

MacEwan is a few years behind the trend that saw an influx of members into Canada West: in less than ten years, the division has grown from six to 14 members. Val Schneider, executive director of Canada West, explains that it's been a steep learning curve for some of the new members, as the level of competition coupled with the increased costs of competing in the division have resulted in larger growing pains than expected.

"The travel costs are very significant because of our geographical distances. And so I think some of the colleges are finding that it's one thing wanting to expand into the CIS, but the actual costs sometimes are not taken into consideration," Schneider says. "For example, a school like Grant MacEwan, their travel costs would increase tremendously were they to join, because all of a sudden, you're competing in a conference that stretches from Victoria to Winnipeg, as opposed to what they're currently doing in Alberta."

Since Canada West spans across four provinces, travel costs are an obvious expense, but with the growth in members, which came both as a result of the merger of teams from the Great Plains Athletic Conference, and the transition of BC colleges into degree-granting institutions, scheduling has also been a challenge. The recent ballooning has prompted the division to put a moratorium on considering new teams until February 2008.

Kenneth Olynyk, director of athletics and recreation at Thompson Rivers University (TRU), who joined CIS in 2005 as a probationary member, admits that the new level of play has been a challenge.

"The transition to CIS is extremely exciting and at the same time very

draining for our student athletes," says Olynyk.

But for Mark Mahl, director of athletics at MacEwan, graduating to a higher level of competition isn't something to be rushed; his approach is "take care of your own backyard first." Only in his second year at the position, Mahl says he was hired "to get MacEwan to the next level," and cites 3–5 years as a realistic time frame.

"We've really been working on it as a department and as an athletic team to just solidify our competitive and financial spot at the top of our league; making sure that we are recruiting the best and providing the best we can in order to put our programs on the top on a consistent level in every sport," Mahl says. "I think that's something that definitely needs to be done when you're entering the CIS. And I don't think necessarily that's been done as far as some of the programs I've seen let into the CIS over the last three or four years—and that's important."

Dale Schulha, director of athletics

accommodate these changes, the influx of new teams tends to be greater in some sports than others, and some of the newer members are still not fully integrated into the organization.

"[The U of A has] 19 CIS sports that we compete in, but we've got these new colleges and university-colleges coming in and they've got six. Is it fair that they have the same vote that we do on issues around the table? Personally, I don't think so," says Schulha.

Schulha is currently part of a membership committee that's reviewing criteria to join Canada West. Though he anticipates big changes for the CIS in the future—and even mentioned the possibility of an amalgamation of the ACAC into the CIS, and the subsequent tiering of institutions to create a more competitive environment—for now Canada West has to deal with the challenges associated with change already made, and take things slow in the future.

"It's too late in my estimation of some situations, and we're going to

beating the heck out of someone, and the programs that are getting beaten like that, they don't get any better; they don't learn anything from getting hammered like that," Mahl says.

Still, he points to MacEwan's rising programs, particularly volleyball, basketball, hockey and soccer, and says it's time for the College to move forward into a higher level of competition.

"We want to be able to compete on the highest level that we can compete at for the value on which that competition is based. And I think in some situations with the ACAC, we're not getting that," Mahl says.

And though Schulha admits that adding a second Edmonton team would affect the way the U of A recruits athletes—as rosters show that MacEwan's formal university-transfer programs are also paired with the transfer of athletes from the college to the university ranks—the addition of MacEwan to the CIS could be a positive thing in the end.

"To me, it wouldn't be ideal," Schulha says. "We'd rather be the only

CIS school in Edmonton. But I don't think we can be shortsighted in that regard. If Grant MacEwan was to come into

We'd rather be the only CIS school in Edmonton. But I don't think we can be shortsighted in that regard. If Grant MacEwan was to come into the CIS, build a good program and we had a real great competition, then it'd be a great crosstown rivalry.

at the University of Alberta, agrees that some of the newer members of the CIS haven't been competing at the same level as other members. He worries that this will cause a detrimental effect on the league in the long run, as weaker teams and stronger teams might both end up in the middle of the road. Recruiting strategies might also have to change, as the pool of athletes is getting small with the addition of new CIS members.

"When you look at it, there's only X-number of athletes across certain sports, and certainly if you're adding a Thompson Rivers or a University-College of Fraser Valley, that's got some impact," Schulha says.

Along with TRU, the University College of the Fraser Valley used to be part of the BC Colleges Athletic Association, but joined the CIS in 2006 under probationary membership.

"I don't think we've lost any 'blue chip' kids to those colleges. I don't think that's happened yet, but I think there's a bit of a watering down effect that might happen," Schulha adds.

With the growth of university-colleges and polytechnic institutes instead of the traditional universities and colleges, the landscape of education in Canada is changing and duly so with athletics programs. But even as CIS continues to grow to

grandfather the Thompson Rivers and those, but any new schools that want to come in will have a very rigorous process to go through, and it's going to cost them some money to show us that they're very serious," Schulha says.

For his part, Mahl recognizes the negative effects of combining less competitive schools into the mix with established athletics programs, and is in favour of restructuring the way competition is ordered.

"You don't get any better by

the CIS, build a good program and we had a real great competition, then it'd be a great crosstown rivalry."

Grant MacEwan aside, there are four other schools that are on the horizon of CIS membership in the Canada West division: SAIT and Mount Royal out of Calgary, UNBC in Prince George, and UBC-Okanagan.

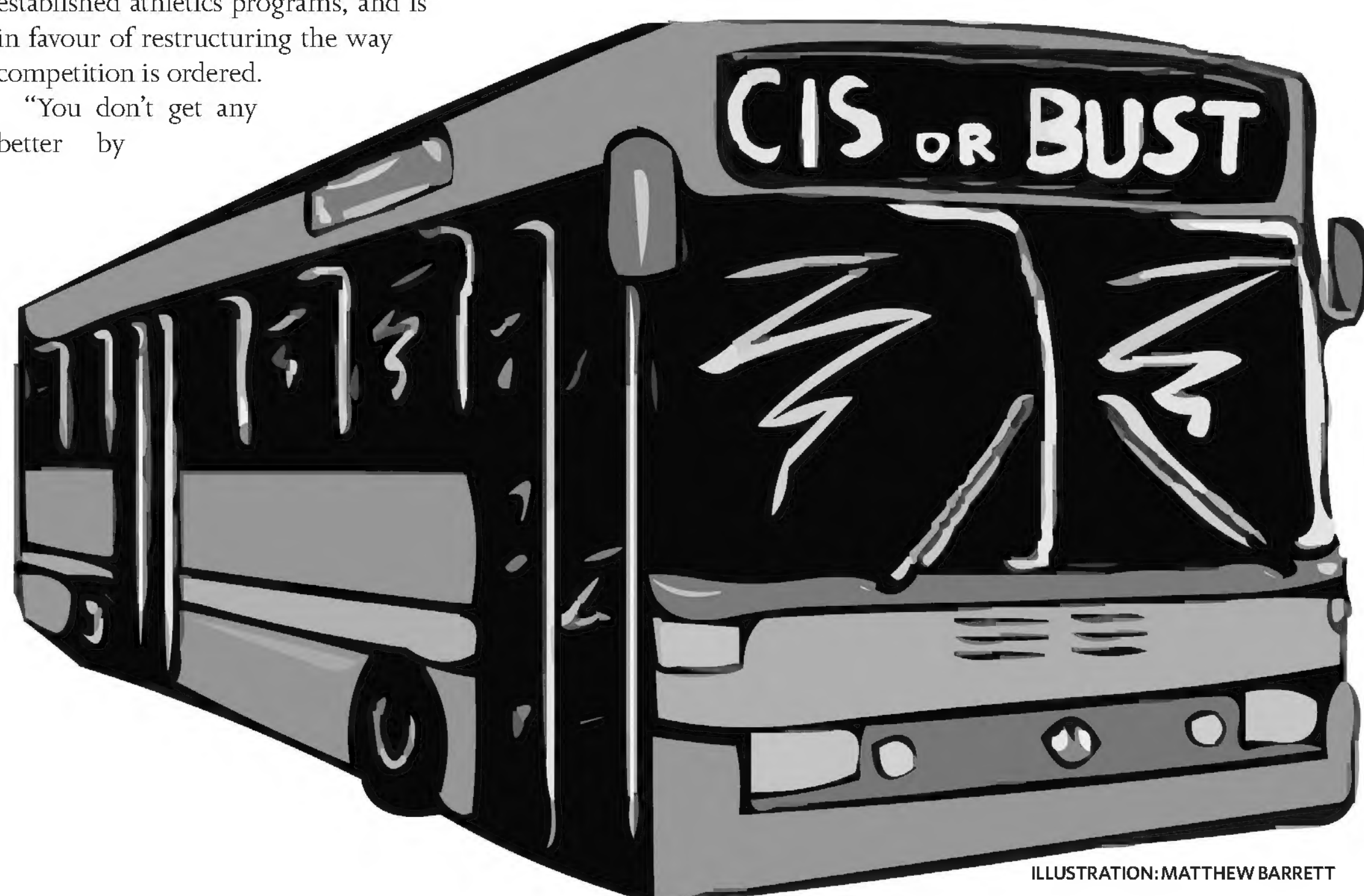


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CANADA WEST TIMELINE

Formed in 1971, Canada West has six charter members:

University of Alberta
University of Lethbridge
University of British Columbia

University of Saskatchewan
University of Calgary
University of Victoria

Other members that have joined since:

1999
Trinity Western University
2001
University of Manitoba
University of Regina
University of Winnipeg

2002
Simon Fraser University
2005
Brandon University
Thompson Rivers University
2006
University College of Fraser Valley